

## The Times-Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY.

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HOW TO CALL TIMES-DISPATCH.  
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1906.

## To Christmas Shoppers.

Please buy your presents early. Early in the day and early in December.

That will be your biggest gift of the holidays—to the workers behind the counters and on the delivery wagons.

Remember now and always that life is no idle dream, but a solemn reality and encompassed by eternity. Find out your task; stand by it; the night comes when no man can work—Carlyle.

## The President and the Negroes.

In the course of his special message on the Brownsville affair the President said:

"Every far-sighted friend of the colored race, in its efforts to strive onward and upward, should teach first, as the most important lesson, to the white man and the black, the duty of treating the individual man strictly on his worth as he shows it. Any conduct by colored people which tends to substitute for this rule the rule of standing by and aiding an evil-doer because he is a member of their race, means the inevitable degradation of the colored race. It may and probably does mean damage to the white race, but it means ruin to the black race."

And in concluding his message he made this challenge:

"I do not claim as a favor, but I challenge as a right, the support of every citizen of this country, whatever his color, provided only he has in him the spirit of gentleness and far-sighted patriotism."

In reply the Suffrage League of Boston called a busy meeting and adopted resolutions, to be sent to negro organizations throughout the country, denouncing the President as an instigator of race hatred and mob violence, and characterizing him as a tyrant rather than a leader of men.

The resolutions further declare that the President has shown that he is "not the friend whom he poses to be by the mere handing out to the race in advance of his election of a few paltry leaves and fishes, thereby showing himself to be a mere politician and not a great statesman."

The whole incident is instructive to the people of the North, who know so little of negro characteristics.

One of the most notable of these is the disposition to shield criminals of their own race. In this instance it was first manifested by the members of the Twenty-fifth Battalion who violated their oath in refusing to disclose the names of their riotous comrades, and it was manifested afterwards by the Suffrage League of Boston and by other negro organizations throughout the land in defending the culprits. Instead of denouncing the infamous conduct of the rioters, negro organizations and negro newspapers have denounced the President for discharging them from the service, and more recently for his message of condemnation, and they even endeavored, upon the flimsiest and most absurd theories, to make it appear that the rioting was done by white men in disguise, who fired into houses where there were women and children of their own race, and committed murder in order to get the negro soldiers into trouble.

Not long ago the secretary of a negro society in Philadelphia published a communication in a local newspaper, in which he asserted with great positiveness and insistence that criminal assaults in the South charged against black men were, in fact, committed by white men disguised as negroes.

It is also well known that when a negro has been convicted of crime and served a term in the penitentiary, he is received upon his release with open arms by many of his fellows and treated as a hero.

This, in our view, is one of the most serious aspects of the negro problem. It denotes a blindness of moral sensibility which is disastrous, to say the least. But there are honorable exceptions. There are negroes of good character who have no sympathy with crime and no toleration for criminals. The hope of the race is in these, and they have a mission. The President has preached them a good sermon, and they should take it to heart. There is no hope for the negro race as long as it does not frown upon crime and exclude from its society men and women who are guilty of crime and gross immorality, and especially so long as it defends and shields its criminals instead of aiding in apprehending them and bringing them to justice.

Manual Training.

At a recent education conference, says the Milwaukee Journal, one of the speakers told this story of a boy of the East Side in New York:

"Tony disliked schoolbooks, and ran away. He was brought back to school, again ran away and once more returned. Then he was placed in a room where he was taught manual training. He was

interested and became clever with his hands. His parents insisted that he go to work. He went, but now he runs away from the shop where he is employed frequently to go back to the school where he was taught manual training."

That was a high tribute to the value of manual training, which some denounce as a modern "educational fad." Experience shows that many a boy whose interest in study could not otherwise be aroused has been saved by the manual training school. By getting him interested in manual training, his interest in books has been kindled and his education secured. The late Captain Vawter, of the Miller School, at Crozet, testified in a speech at the University not long before his death, that he had repeatedly transformed dull boys into good students by finding out where their interest lay and giving them such work as would stimulate it.

More than all, experience shows that nearly all boys who take the manual training course are better students in all their classes than boys of like capacity, who have not had the benefit of such instruction. In all education the question of prime importance is to excite the pupil's interest, without which both teaching and learning are a drudge. If manual training does nothing more than to excite the interest of the pupils in study, it would still be most worthy of a place in our school curriculum.

## An Interesting Suit.

The Alkin law of Ohio, enacted by the last Legislature, increases the tax on saloons from \$350 to \$1,000 a year, but the act has been attacked, and the suit is now pending in the Superior Court of Cincinnati. The litigation grows out of the fatal illness of the late Governor Pattison.

In common with other measures, the Alkin bill, upon its passage, was sent to Governor Pattison, after his veto. It received neither.

Under the Constitution, if a bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor within ten days after its final passage, it becomes a law, nevertheless. The certification on the Alkin act is to the effect that it was "presented" to the governor, and, after the lapse of ten days, filed with the Secretary of State without signature or veto.

The law is attacked on the ground that the Constitution of the State prescribes that the Lieutenant-Governor shall assume the duties of the Governor when the latter is "disqualified" from fulfilling them. An effort to prove that Governor Pattison was not qualified to perform his official duties on March 28th, when the Alkin bill was presented to him, is made.

The argument advanced is that if such was the case, Lieutenant-Governor Harris should have then been acting as Governor, and the bill should have been presented to him.

This is the desperate effort of the liquor men to defeat the will of the Legislature, especially so as it is well known that Governor Pattison was heartily in favor of the measure. The court will doubtless make short work of the case.

He Has Come to Virginia.

The Industrial Department of this paper, as the result of its advertising propaganda, has attracted the attention of thousands of people to Virginia. It has distributed literally to all parts of America and to foreign countries descriptive matter about Richmond and Virginia. It has not attempted or desired to work for Richmond alone, and when inquiries have come to it they have been distributed to reliable real estate dealers in all parts of the State. Right here it also is not just to state that the Norfolk and Western and Southern Railways are powerful and intelligent aids in this work. Both of these roads maintain extensively equipped departments with accurate and marvelously diversified information about Virginia that is being distributed free of cost worldwide.

What Virginia needs is more people. There should be many millions more people in this State than now are. The productive soil, the equable and healthful climate, the mineral wealth, and the character of Virginia's institutions, warrant such.

It is time for an awakening to the possibilities and an aggressive effort organized to direct to this section a part of the desirable immigration that is coming to America. There are thousands of people in other parts of America like Mr. Riley, whose letter is here printed, that can find more advantageous conditions here, and will come to Virginia if the facts are laid before them.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir—Please accept thanks for the reading matter and the information you send me some time ago. As a result I visited your State and purchased a tract of land near Farmville. I like your climate, and I believe you have the soil. If the shipping facilities were good enough I believe it would be a fine place for trucking.

Yours truly,  
 HENRY A. RILEY.

Ellen Center, N. Y., December 18, 1906.

The Times-Dispatch invites the co-operation of all Virginians in the efforts to develop the State's resources.

The Abattoir Question.

The backbone of Richmond's wealth and prosperity is the factory. It brings money from elsewhere and distributes it throughout the city. Therefore the factory is an object of especial care and consideration to the City Council and the Chamber of Commerce. Both bodies desire to foster and promote the factories already here and to encourage the building and operation of new factories. That goes without saying. The only question to arise, in connection with the proposal to erect and operate an abattoir within the city limits is whether or not this can be done without prejudice to the health of the city and without creating a nuisance.

In order to inform its members and citizens generally, the Chamber of Commerce invited Dr. Wm. M. J. Coplin, of the Health Department of Philadelphia, to deliver an address in its assembly hall last night on this subject. The large attendance of representative citizens was proof of public interest in the question under discussion, and as for the speaker, he showed perfect familiarity with his topic. He has the experience; he has practical as well as theoretical and scientific knowledge of abattoirs and their habits, and he has a vein of humor which gives flavor even to an unsteady discourse.

Dr. Coplin did not mystify his hearers with scientific technicalities, but called the abattoir a slaughter-house and dealt with it and its operation in plain terms. He showed a disposition to be entirely fair, and frankly stated that the menace to health of such an establishment was infinitesimal. He dismissed that phase of the question without discussion. But the menace to the comfort of the neighborhood was, in his view, quite another question. First of all, he said that the noise of cattle and hogs and the appearance of the employees as they leave the slaughter-house were not altogether agreeable, to say nothing of the odors.

He pointed out that the pens in which the cattle and hogs are kept before being slaughtered, and the disposal of the "by-products"—to use a plain term, the entrails—were the chief sources of nuisance. Eliminate these and the nuisance would be reduced to its lowest terms. He admitted that it was possible to maintain an ideal slaughter-house which would not be seriously objectionable, but he believed that such a slaughter-house would be commercially impracticable. In Philadelphia the slaughter-houses, the fertilizer factories, the oil refineries, and all such ill-scented plants had proven to be highly objectionable and had caused loud complaints from persons residing in their vicinity, especially in the warm season. He said that in order to produce the best meats, it was necessary for the factories to have plenty of light and ventilation, and when the factory windows were open the windows of residences had to be closed. One matter of especial interest to Richmond he mentioned, was that in the summer season the prevailing direction of the winds in Philadelphia was from the south, and that residences to the north of the slaughter-houses were those which were most sorely afflicted by the odors. In fine, he said that all such establishments in Philadelphia had proven to be an insufferable nuisance, and that the city was driving them out of the residence and business districts as rapidly as possible.

With this testimony of an expert before us, with the experience of another city to warn us, the Council of Richmond should have no difficulty in reaching conclusions. The Chamber of Commerce and citizens generally who heard Dr. Coplin are deeply indebted to him for his entertaining and instructive address.

President Roosevelt did not fail in his special message on the Brownsville incident to cite the illustrious example of Robert E. Lee, in support of his action in discharging the negro soldiers of the famous Twenty-fifth from the service. Isn't it a bit strange that the President of the United States, who was reared at the North and elected by the Republicans, to call to his aid the act of a "rebel and a traitor"? But the President does it in the most matter-of-course sort of way.

Richmond is generous, and many gifts to charity will be made during the holiday season, but none more generous and God-like than the contribution of the Veterans of the Soldiers' Home to the Citizens' Relief Association. It is inspiring and gives sweet flavor to our Christmas cheer.

If Japan were a little happier country, and we happened to need a section of her territory to run a canal through, well, how would you feel about this school lease then, Mr. President?

"It's the bits that count boys," said Mr. Roosevelt to the middle-aged target practice, and forthwith proceeded to pass his "Dear Hellany" a stinging swat in the solar plexus.

There is a man in London with whiskers sixteen feet long. Admitting for the joke of the thing that he has a den, how would you like to go and beard him in it?

The Kaiser hotly denies that he used a bad swear-word in speaking of the Centralists. Bingham, of New York, doesn't understand what there is to be excited about.

The Roosevelt remarks about the discharged colored infantry were going some, but it seemed a little superfluous to refer to the episode as "a black crime."

Secretary Shaw, who feels fearfully that we are suffering from an overdose of property, has evidently not done his Christmas shopping yet.

But probably the real reason that our Congressmen have not been getting bigger salaries is that they aren't that sort of men.

The landmark is ineffectively opposed to any more of the kind. State the fact as Mr. Roosevelt's suggested use of force to keep California to admit the Japanese is the only way to keep the country from the extraction of the deciding power in the Senate. We should have the hands of men representing the people in the Senate.

Don't send any messages of holiday greeting to your Congressmen. They already have more messages than they can take already.

Mr. Roosevelt refers to the Panama Canal as "a giant feat." "Giant defeat" is the way the P. Bigelow family write it.

## Rhymes for To-Day

S. CLAUS and Family.

CHILDREN, cease your youthful

Give your merry games a pause,

While he talks of Santa Claus.

Hark, you, we ones—hear that drumming.

Like some feet that swiftly go?

That is Santa Claus a-comeing.

(Don't you hear that drumming,

That is Santa Claus a-comeing.)

He is drawn by many reindeers,

Hitched with ribbons to his sleigh,

And I think it's pretty plain, dears,

That he's heading straight this way.

Daddy cannot quite say him,

But he knows how Santies do,

And he's bringing bundles by him

Full of things for all of you.

(Don't you hear that drumming,

That is Santa Claus a-comeing.)

What's it's bed-time, little mother?

On my soul! Now, children—light!

Good-night, Jane and Little Brother,

Tommy Boy—good-night—good-night!

Now, then, mother, that the

flockings—

Over—let us plan, dear heart,

How to fill those little stockings

In a way to leave no smart.

(Listen, mother—hear that drumming,

That is Santa Claus a-comeing.)

H. S. B.

MERELY JOKING.

Exceedingly Unspeaking.

Towner: "They talk of the 'unspokeable' Turk, but the average Russian is worse."

Browne: "Of course, wouldn't you say that?"

Towner: "Yes, indeed, but I am not mentioning the average Russian by name."

Philadelphia Free.

Terrific.

Mr. Harpelle: "I hope the flowers I sent you to wear at the ball came on time?"

Miss O'D.: "Woman's Home Companion."

He Was Nothing.

"She said nothing would change her mind when she lifted me, and now she is going to marry that soft foot Chapinville!"

Well, she might as well change her mind.

Washington Times.

T. R. Please Write.

Father: "It's absurd; what can you know of a young man after only two days' acquaintance?"

The daughter: "Well, that's as long as the President lived at the White House."

Right!

Re: "Everything in this house looks run down!"

Shel: "But, dear, you haven't seen this little month's 'Exempt Free Press.'"

POINTS FROM PARAGRAPHS.

FRANCE first decided that there was to be war between the United States and Germany.

The former is a great and powerful nation, and the latter is a small and feeble one.

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